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How, J. Badcock. Trinity Chambers

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PUBLISHED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE
PROMOTION OF COLONIZATION.

A SHORT ACCOUNT
OF
THE BRITISH DEPENDENCIES OPEN TO
COLONIZATION:

- I. NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES.
- II. SOUTH AFRICAN COLONIES.
- III. AUSTRALIAN COLONIES.
- IV. NEW ZEALAND.

I.—THE NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES.

These colonies comprise East and West Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and Prince Edward's Island, on the Atlantic; and Vancouver's Island, now under the control of the Hudson's Bay Company, on the Pacific Ocean.

The first five colonies (for the two Canadas are now one) are still for the most part forests of beech, pine, maple, and other trees: they form, together with the Hudson's Bay territory, about half the North American continent, and comprise an area of about the size of Europe, of which a large proportion is cultivable.

The chief cities in these settlements are Quebec, Montreal, Toronto, Kingston, Halifax, Fredericton, St. John's in New Brunswick, and another town of the same name in Newfoundland. These cities

contain, altogether, a British population rather less than that of the parish of Marylebone in London; and beyond the immediate neighbourhood of the cities, the whole country is covered with forest, only broken occasionally by small villages of log-houses.

In the interior of the country there are few roads, in our English sense of the word: such as there are, more resemble the lanes leading to farm-houses in this country, only that the ruts are generally deeper. There is fine water communication by the lakes and rivers. The country is brought into cultivation, first by cutting down the trees, leaving stumps of two or three feet high in the ground: the trees are cut into lengths and pulled together, branches and all, with oxen, and then burnt to ashes. The grain is then thrown in, after a rough sort of ploughing, among the stumps; and in many parts of North America, the land is so rich with decayed vegetation, that it will yield from 25 to 30 bushels an acre, for eight or nine years in succession. The settlers build their houses with squared logs, and roof them with bark, or bits of split wood, called shingles.

The North American winter lasts from five to seven months; the cold is intense; and the only way of going about is on the snow in sledges. To an Englishman of good constitution, however, the climate is healthful. The chief ailments in these, as in all the wooded countries, are fever and ague, to which, however, the temperate seldom fall victims. In respect of climate, the western districts are the warmest.

The productions, prices of land, and wages for labour, in all these colonies, are so much alike, as not to require a separate description. Grain and timber are the principal articles of export.

The affairs of these colonies are administered by Legislatures of their own, under Governors sent out from England.

Settlers can buy good land, in almost any part of British America, for about 5s. an acre; and, at the present price of labour, it costs about £4 an acre to clear away the trees, and to fence it and bring it into cultivation.

The labourers most wanted are those who can handle the axe; and

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such men will earn about £20 a year, with food and lodging. The labour of new comers, before they understand the ways of the country, is not worth so much. Idlers and drunkards can earn nothing.

Provisions are very cheap: the best wheaten flour is now about a guinea per barrel of 196 lbs., and pork about 3d. per lb. These are the chief articles of food in the backwoods. In the towns the same provisions may be obtained as in England, and generally at much lower rates.

The nearest North American port is about five or six weeks' voyage from England in sailing ships; and about ten days or a fortnight in steamers. The average cost of steerage passage in sailing vessels is £5 or £6, including provisions and all expenses of the voyage.

II.—THE SOUTH AFRICAN COLONIES.

These comprise the Cape of Good Hope, divided into the eastern and western colonies, of which Cape Town and Graham's Town are respectively the capitals, and the comparatively new settlement of Natal. These colonies yield wheat, wine and wool, indigo, sugar, and coffee. Their climate is very healthy, and there is much good land, which can be bought at 2s. 6d. per acre, or less. The native race, called Kaffirs, with whom we have been at war, are now so far subdued as to afford no ground of apprehension to settlers. The voyage from England lasts about two months, and the steerage passage is in general about £12, including all expenses.

III.—THE AUSTRALIAN COLONIES.

1. NEW SOUTH WALES, *including Port Phillip.*

The Australian colonies, which at the present time offer a large field of employment to the working classes of Great Britain, are New South

Wales, Van Diemen's Land, and South Australia. New South Wales embraces the country known as "Port Phillip," which is generally regarded as a separate colony, but as yet it forms part of the territory presided over by the Governor of New South Wales. It is expected, however, that it will soon have a separate political existence, with its own Governor and Legislature.

New South Wales embraces the eastern part of the continent of New Holland. The occupied portion of the country extends along the coast, from 26° or 27° South latitude round to the Glenelg River, in longitude 141° East, the eastern boundary of the South Australian colony; being an extent, in round numbers, of about 1,800 miles. It must be understood that a large proportion of this tract of country is very thinly settled, and the average distance from the coast within which the different settlements are embraced cannot be stated at above 200 miles.

The *old* colony of New South Wales may be said to consist of some twenty compact Counties, diverging north, south, and west from Port Jackson, upon which is placed the city of Sydney, the capital of Australia. Beyond these counties are what are called "Districts," occupied chiefly as grazing tracts for sheep and cattle; but grazing is extensively pursued in the counties also. Sydney is in the county of Cumberland: it is a remarkably fine town, with 45,000 inhabitants. There are other considerable towns in the colony, and many villages.

The English emigrant would find himself quite at home in this colony; and indeed in all the Australian settlements. In the towns, he might imagine himself in England. He would see English shops, English goods, English carriages, stage-coaches, steam-boats, churches, chapels, mechanics' institutes, &c., just as in England. On the farms, he would find English cultivation, though, generally speaking, not so carefully attended to as at home, especially on the lands but lately occupied by settlers. But what would not be English to him, would be the large extent of "bush," as the settlers term the native forest, and which he would find often coming close up to the towns. The climate,

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too, is warmer and more dry than the English climate; and the country in consequence not so well watered as Great Britain.

Port Phillip is separated by a tract of thinly occupied country, from the old colony of New South Wales; and as that colony may be said to face the Pacific, so Port Phillip may be said to face Bass's Straits and the Southern Ocean. Its capital is Melbourne, a thriving well-built town, with 11,000 inhabitants. Glenelg is another rising town at Port Phillip.

The population of New South Wales, including Port Phillip, is, at the present time, upwards of 200,000. There is, however, country large enough for many millions. The great want in the country is *human beings*; and, for generations to come, the demand for labour must make wages high; speaking on the average. It may happen that temporary causes, as the arrival at a particular moment of a large number of emigrants, may depress wages; and in such cases emigrants would do well not to stand out for high wages, but get themselves quickly employed. In the nature of things it can never be the case, for any length of time, that the industrious working man in these young countries can be without a very high rate of reward for his labour.

The classes of mechanics and labourers most required in New South Wales and Port Phillip just now, are the following: the current rates of wages, in December 1847, are placed opposite each class:—

New South Wales.—Agricultural labourers, £23 a year; bricklayers, £41 a year; blacksmiths, £40 a year; carpenters, £39 a year; masons, £40 a year; shepherds, £23 a year; wheelwrights, £39 a year. With the preceding rates of wages, *board and lodging is also given*. Bricklayers, blacksmiths, carpenters, masons, and wheelwrights, get about 5s. 6d. a day, when hired by the day; but then they do not receive rations. Common labourers receive about 3s. 6d. a day, without rations.

Port Phillip.—The wages are about a fifth more than they are in New South Wales.

In each colony there is a great demand for female domestics.

The prices of the principal articles of consumption, in December last year, were as follows:—

For New South Wales and Port Phillip.—Bread, (seconds.) 1½d. per lb.; tea, 2s. 3d. per lb.; sugar, 4d. per lb.; coffee, 1s. 1d. per lb.; and meat, 2d. per lb.

2. SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

South Australia is on the south of the great Australian continent, the Glenelg river dividing it from the Port Phillip country. The entire population, at the present time, is perhaps about 40,000; of whom about 8,000 reside in its chief town, Adelaide. It extends from the Southern Ocean to the 26th degree of latitude, and from 132° to 141° East longitude, embracing a space larger than the kingdoms of Spain and Portugal. In addition to its considerable amount of agricultural and pastoral production, it derives a great income from its lead and copper mines, which are extremely productive.

It is an equally eligible field for the emigrant with New South Wales and Port Phillip, and for the same reasons.

The rates of wages and the prices of commodities are generally about the same as those quoted for Port Phillip.

3. VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

This beautiful island is situated to the south of New South Wales, from which it is separated by Bass's Straits. It is a mountainous wooded country, with rich land in the broad valleys through which the rivers flow. Its size is about two-thirds that of Ireland. It has two large towns: Hobart Town, in the south, on the river Derwent; and Launceston, on the north, on the river Tamar. Its population, by a late census, is above 70,000. The settlers follow pastoral occupations largely, like their fellow-colonists on the neighbouring continent; but the climate and soil are such as to cause agriculture to be also extensively pursued. There is nearly as much land in cultivation in this island as in the whole of New South Wales. Indeed it exports grain very largely to that colony.

Wages have not been, generally, so high of late on this as on the other side of Bass's Straits, owing to the large number of convicts which have been kept there during the last few years; but under the changes about being effected in this respect by the present Govern-

ment, the colonies, agricultur great den

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ment, the island will again occupy its proper position among British colonies, as a field for the employment of labour and capital. Good agricultural servants, however, are said to be at the present time in great demand, as well as female domestics.

* * The length of time employed in the voyage from England, direct to Sydney, is generally about four months; to Port Phillip and Van Diemen's Land about a week or ten days less; and to South Australia about a fortnight less. The voyage is a pleasant one, if vessels leave this country at the end of summer. They then avoid the winter on both sides of the globe. The cost of a steerage passage for an emigrant is about £15. Steam communication is now constant between all the preceding colonies.

4. WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

This colony does not offer a field for emigration on so large a scale at the present time as the eastern and southern colonies of Australia. However, labourers, shepherds, and female servants, are, by the last census, much in request. The voyage to this colony may be considered to occupy three or four weeks less than the voyage to Sydney.

NOTE.—*The only colonies to which free or assisted passages are given to emigrants (and who must be of the classes approved by the Emigration Commissioners) are, at present, New South Wales, Port Phillip, and South Australia.*

IV.—NEW ZEALAND.

New Zealand consists of three islands, situate in the Southern Ocean, about ten days' voyage eastward of the Australian continent. The northern and middle islands only are available for colonists, and are about the same size as the British islands. The principal settlements

SOUTH AFRICA—Cape Colony.
Natal.

Indian Ocean—
Chagos Islands.

NORTH AMERICA
Nova Scotia.

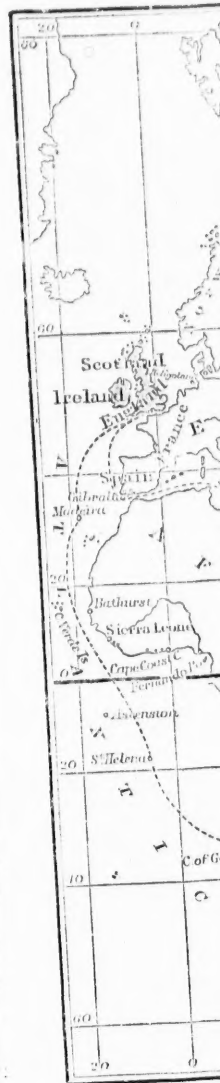
are those of Auckland, New Plymouth, Petrie, and Wellington, in the northern; and Nelson and Park Otago, in the southern island.

New Zealand is under British government, but about two-thirds of the territory have been committed to a chartered Company, under whose auspices emigration is chiefly conducted. The present European population does not, it is believed, exceed 15,000. It is a fine thickly-wooded country, rather adapted for agricultural than pastoral pursuits; and may be said, except as to climate, which is mild, rather to resemble, in its chief characteristics, the North American than the Australian colonies.

The cost of passage is about the same as to Australia. All detailed information respecting this important colony may be obtained on application to the New Zealand Company's Office, 9, Broad Street Buildings, London.

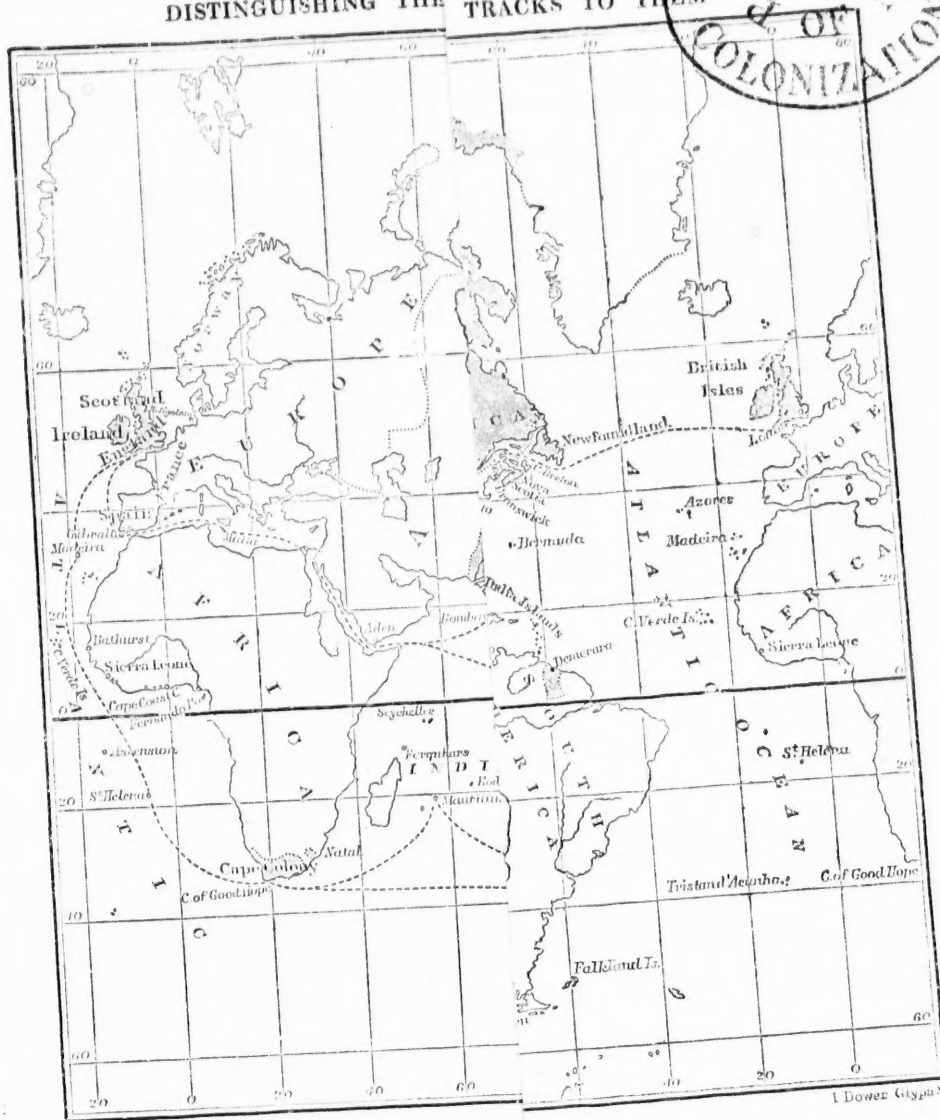
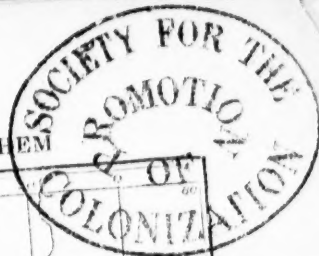
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Europe
Channel Islands
Heligoland.
Gibraltar, Malta
Ionian Islands.
Africa
Bathurst on the
and posts.
Sierra Leone.
Cape Coast Cas
South Africa—
Natal.

DISTINGUISHING THE TRACKS TO THEM



Europe.

Channel Islands.
Heligoland.
Gibraltar, Malta and Gozo.
Ionian Islands.

Africa.

Bathurst on the Gambia
and posts.
Sierra Leone.
Cape Coast Castle & posts.
South Africa—Cape Colony.
Natal.

South Atlantic Ocean.

Fernando Po.
Ascension.
St. Helena.
Tristan d'Acunha.
Falkland Islands.

Indian Ocean.

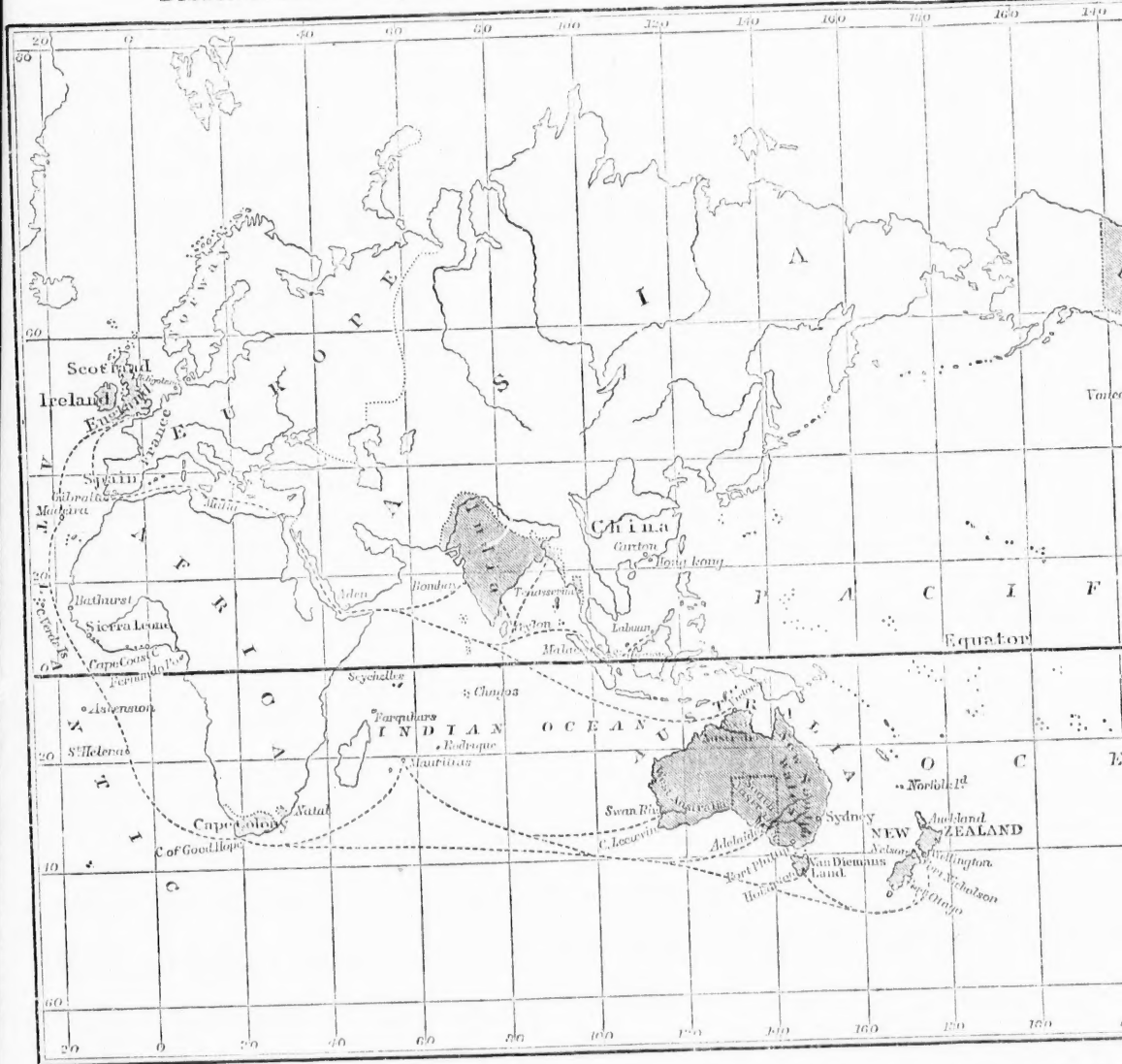
Mauritius.
Rodrigue Island.
Seychelles Islands.
Chagos Islands.

Guilla.
Virgin Islands (partly).
Christopher's.
Montserrat.
St. Vincent.
St. Lucia.
St. Kitts.

Murmas
North America
Nova Scotia.

Cape Breton.
New Brunswick.
Lower Canada.
Upper Canada.
Hudson's Bay Territory.
Labrador.
Newfoundland.
Anticosti Island.
Prince Edward's Island.
Vancouver's Island.

A MAP OF THE WORLD DISTINGUISHING THE BRITISH ISLES, THEIR COLONIES, AND POSSESSIONS



A CLASSIFIED LIST OF THE BRITISH COLONIES

Europe.
Channel Islands.
Heligoland.
Gibraltar, Malta and Gozo.
Ionian Islands.
Africa.
Bathurst on the Gambia
and posts.
Sierra Leone.
Cape Coast Castle & posts.
South Africa—Cape Colony.
Natal.

South Atlantic Ocean.
Fernando Po.
Ascension.
St. Helena.
Tristan d'Acunha.
Falkland Islands.

Indian Ocean.
Mauritius.
Rodrigue Island.
Seychelles Islands.
Chagos Islands.

Asia.
Aden.
Bombay.
Bengal.
Madras.
Ceylon.
Martaban.
Tenasserim.
Pulo Penang Island.
Malacca Province.
Wellsey Province.
Singapore Province.

Labuan.
Canton Factories.
Hong Kong.

Australia.
New South Wales.
South Australia.
West Australia.
Port Phillip.
North Australia.
Van Diemen's Land.

Norfolk Island.
New Zealand.

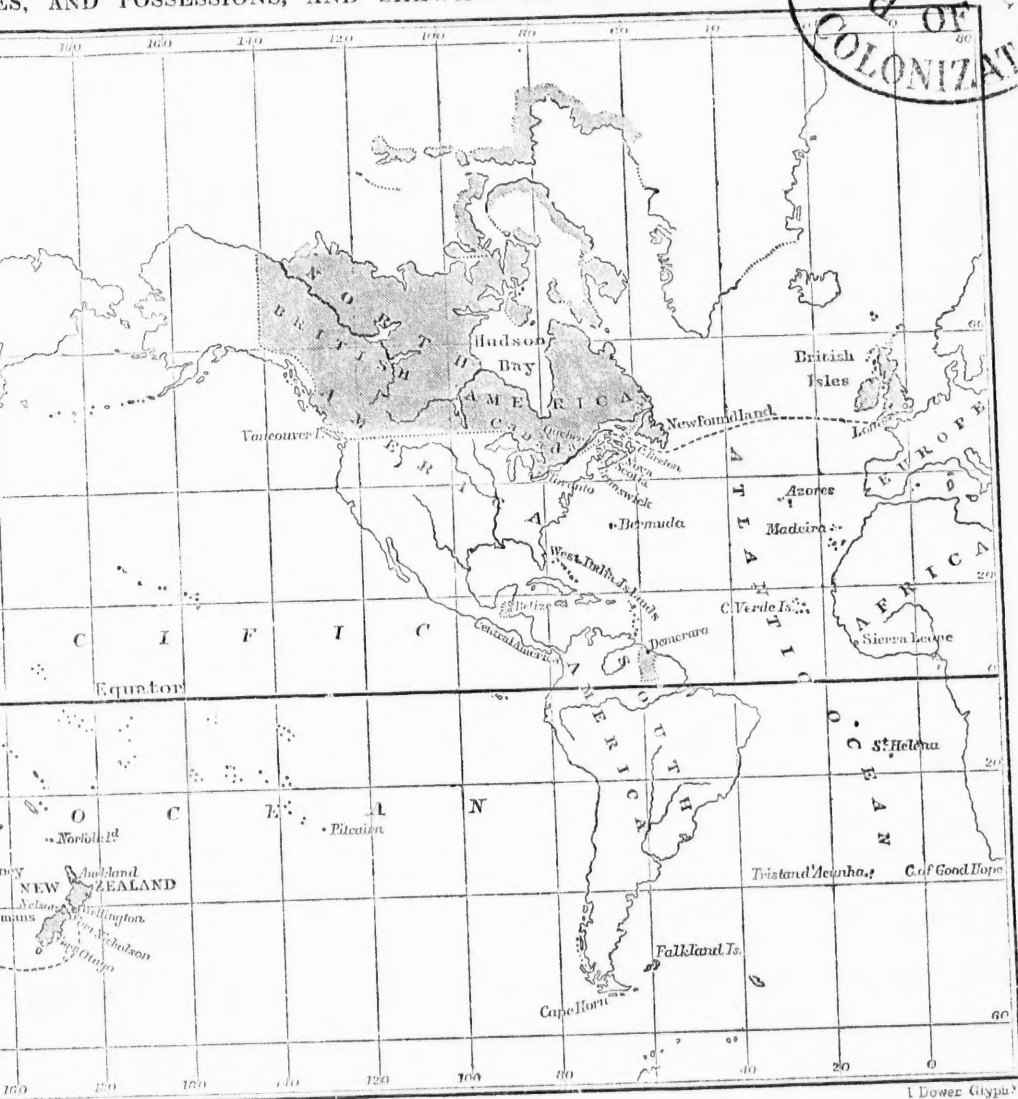
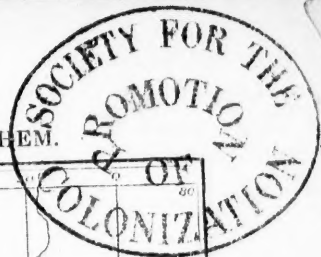
South America.
Gulana.
Demerara.
Essequibo.
Berbice.

Central America.
British Honduras—

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THE BRITISH COLONIES AND POSSESSIONS.

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| <p>Norfolk Island.
New Zealand.</p> <p><i>South America</i></p> <p>Guiana.
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St. Vincent.
St. Lucia.
Dominica.
Antigua.
Barbuda.</p> | <p>Anguilla.
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Nevis.
Jamaica.
Bahamas.</p> <p>Bermudas</p> <p><i>North America</i>
Nova Scotia.</p> | <p>Cape Breton.
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Lower Canada.
Upper Canada.
Hudson's Bay Territory.
Labrador.
Newfoundland.
Anticosti Island.
Prince Edward's Island
Vancouver's Island.</p> |
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